



SIGN REGULATIONS SUMMARY

SIGN REGULATIONS OVERVIEW

The City's Sign Regulations are limited to off-site and on-site signs. The informational content ("copy") and letter height of the signs are not regulated. The sign regulations can be reviewed in their entirety online at www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us; they are located in Title 13 of the City's Municipal Code. This handout provides a brief overview of the City's regulations for signs that are prohibited and temporary signs such as banners and balloons. All permanent signs require approval by the Development Services Department prior to installation, relocation, or modification. At a minimum, an application for a sign permit requires the submittal of three sets of plans. Typically, the plans are reviewed "over the counter" and approved the same business day. Please contact the Planning Division at (714) 754-5245 for additional information.

SIGNS PROHIBITED IN ALL ZONES¹

1. Signs which incorporate any flashing, moving or intermittent lighting.
2. Signs which by color, wording, design, location, or illumination resemble, obstruct or conflict with any traffic-control device or with safe and efficient flow of traffic.
3. Signs that create a safety hazard by obstructing clear view of or passage of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
4. Banners, flags, and pennants except as authorized in Section 13-115, Temporary Signs.
5. Street banners in the public right-of-way, except as authorized by Section 13-118.
6. Signs projecting into or located in the public right-of-way, except governmental signs or other types of signs as authorized by Sections 13-123.5 and 127 or Chapter II of Title 19.
7. Inflatable signs (and balloons) larger than 24 inches in any dimension.
8. Portable signs, except as authorized by Section 13-123.5 and in Section 13-115.
9. Mechanical movement.
10. Signs which project above a parapet or the highest point of the roof.
11. Signs on public property.
12. Electronic changeable copy signs, except theater marquees and time/temperature signs.

1. All "Section" and "Title" references are to the Costa Mesa Municipal Code.

CITY OF COSTA MESA

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TEMPORARY SIGNS

BANNERS ¹ (no permit or fee required) Excerpted from Table 13-115		
	RESIDENTIAL ZONES	COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/INSTITUTIONAL ZONES
MAXIMUM AREA	0.5 sq.ft. per unit Maximum area: 100 sq.ft	0.5 sq.ft. per lineal foot of building frontage facing the street Minimum entitlement: 25 sq.ft. per tenant Maximum area: 75 sq.ft. per tenant
TIME LIMIT	NONE	
DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS	1. The entire surface of the banner must be securely affixed to either a building wall of the business being advertised (the building wall must abut a public street or on-site parking area serving the business being advertised), or to the sign face of a freestanding sign. 2. May not be attached to any staff, pole, line, framing, vehicle or similar support. 3. May not project above roof. 4. Must be maintained in good condition; removed or replaced if torn, faded or dirty. 5. Limit one banner per tenant or building occupant on each street frontage maximum. 6. Banners are permitted only as a means of temporary advertisement, such as for new business, grand openings, or similar special events, and may not be used as permanent signs.	

BALLOONS AND INFLATABLES ¹ (no permit or fee required) Excerpted from Table 13-115			
	RESIDENTIAL ZONES	COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES	INSTITUTIONAL ZONES
LESS THAN 24 INCHES IN DIAMETER	Prohibited	Allowed subject to the following: 1. May not extend beyond any property line or over any public right-of-way, regardless of wind conditions. 2. Must be securely anchored. 3. May not be released into the air. 4. Metallic balloons are prohibited.	Prohibited
OVER 24 INCHES IN DIAMETER	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited

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